Season 1995-96 as compared to 55.71 lakh tonnes procured against the arrival of 56.55 lakh tonnes of wheat during the corresponding period last year.

Gian Prakash Committee Report

5881. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 281 in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1995 and also to the Supplementaries asked on Starred Question Nos. 85 and 97 in the House on the 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the question of mala fide on the part of any one was referred to and examined by the Gian Prakash Committee;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in "The Times of India" of the 19th December, 1994 under the heading, "Corruption angel not probed: Gian";

(d) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(e) under what circumstances Government have come to the conclusion that the Gain Prakash Committee Report does not mention any matter that would create suspicion of mala fide on the part of any one and what are the detials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A preliminary Administrative enquiry to ascertain and report facts and dix prima facie responsibility for lapsses, if any, in dealing with the situation arising out of shortage in availability of sugar was ordered in July, 1994.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As indicated above, Shri Gain Prakash has conducted a preliminary administrative enquiry and not a public enquiry under the Commission of Enquiries Act. It was not his brief to look into allegations of corruption nor was he an investigating agency to investigate into such charges.

(e) The Government has come to this conclusion after a perusal of the Gain Prakash Committee's Report, a copy of which has already been placed in the Parliament Library.

Committee to examine administrative remedial measures of Gain Prakash Committee Report

5882. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 97 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) when the Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was set up to examine the administrative premedial measures recommended by Shri Gain Prakash Committee and on which date it submitted its report;

(b) what are the details of the recommendations made by Shri Gain Prakash Committee which were examined by this Committee;

(c) what are the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) what action Government have taken on each of its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A copy of the Gain Prakash Committee's Report has been placed in the Parliament Library. The Report makes certain recommendations in dealing with future situations of sugar shortage. These include the need to evolve an integrated policy on all sweeteners, creation of a buffer stock, use of scientific forecasting and estimation methods, improvements in administrative arrangements for monitoring and dealing with sugar shortages and its implementation, keeping sugar under OGL with no duty, etc.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was set up to examine the aforesaid recommendations and this was communicated to the Ministry of Food vide letter dated 12.12.1994. The Committee submitted its Report on 18.1.1995. The Committee has made suggestions regarding the various points covered by the Gain Prakash Committee Report. The recommendations made by this Committee are being examined by the Government at present.

Proposal of sugar factories in Maharashtra

5883. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals for establishment of sugar factories in Maharashtra which are pending with Government;

(b) since when these proposals are pending; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) 16 proposals for setting up of new sugar factories in the State of Maharashtra were pending consideration in the Ministry of Food, as on 31.1.95. Majority of the applications have been received during the calendar years 1993 and 1994.

The Central Government is, at present, reviewing the licensing policy for sugar industry. A decision on the pending applications for grant of letters of intent for the setting up of new sugar factories will be taken thereafter.

Abolition of the System of Bonded Labour and Child Labour

5884. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of bonded labour and child labour has been completely eliminated in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there still exists "Slavery system" in some parts of North East Region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Bonded Labour System stands abolished throughout the country with effect from 25.10.75 as a result of bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Out of 2,51,424 bonded labourers indentified and released upto 31.3.1993 since the Act came into effect only about 6000 bonded labourers are still awaiting rehabilitation. Regarding child labour, the policy of the Government is to progressively eliminate it.

(c) and (d) There are no reports of existence of bonded labour system from the North Eastern States.

Migration of rural workers from Orissa to different States

5885. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale migration of rural work force from Orissa to States like Punjab, Haryana and Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the approximate number of workers of Orissa who have migrated in different States;

(d) the steps taken to prevent the migration of the workers; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.